

WINNER OF THE PEN/FAULKNER AWARD

A  
NOVEL



# NETHERLAND

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A  
New York Times  
Book Review

BEST BOOK  
OF THE YEAR

NATIONAL BESTSELLER

“With echoes of *The Great Gatsby*, . . . Joseph O’Neill’s stunning new novel provides a resonant meditation on the American Dream.” –Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times*

# KEY FACTS

**Title:** Netherland

**Author:** Joseph O'Neill

**Type of Work:** Novel

**Genre of the Novel:** Fiction

**Date of Publication:** May 2008

**Narrator:** Hans Van den Broek

**Point of View:** Hans Van den Broek narrates the story in a first person. He starts off by telling what happens at the end of the story in the beginning of the novel, then covers all the missing parts to why things became the way it became.

**Tone:** The tone of the narrator was very skeptical in the beginning of the novel about the decision he was making in his life. However, as the novel progresses the tone of the narrator becomes more positive and the narrator was full of hope by the end of the novel.

**Tense:** Past

**Setting (time):** Around 1970s~2004

**Setting (place):** New York, London

**Minor Setting (place):** Netherlands, India

**Protagonist:** Chuck Ramkisson, Hans Van den Broek, Rachel Van den Broek

## Major Conflict

The major conflict of the story is between the narrator, Hans and Rachel, his wife. The narrator, Hans, decides to go after the American Dream not knowing the importance of family. Rachel on the other hand wishes to go back to London because of her nationalism.

## **Rising Action**

The rising action is shown by type of life he lives. As Hans continues his life in New York he becomes more ignorant of his family. He chooses to play cricket over taking time with his family, especially his son Jake.

## **Climax**

The climax of the story arises from the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack. Rachel cannot bear to stay in New York and therefore takes Jake with her to London where she believes it is a safer environment.

## **Falling Action**

The novel comes to a resolution as Hans starts to realize the importance of his family. He believes that it is crucial for Jake to grow up with his Dad. Hans returns to London, and upon his return to London Chuck has been murdered. To make ties better in the family, the family sets on a family trip to India.

## **Foreshadowing**

The death of Chuck Ramkissoon comments about the fallacy of the American Dream, and how situations are pretty much the same in other countries besides the United States.

# **PLOT OVERVIEW**

Netherlands by Joseph O'Neill is an award-winning literature which explores the theme of the American Dream and family love. The exposition of this novel is based on Hans, the narrator, who moves to New York city from London. Hans is a stockbroker who moves to America in search for a economic bonanza. He has a wife named Rachel and a

son named Jake. In the new foreign setting of New York City, the story of Hans starts to unfold.

The rising action can be seen through how Hans lives his life in New York; he starts to increasingly care less about family life. Instead of spending quality time with Jake as son and father, Hans plays cricket with his friends obsessively. Lead by Chuck Ramkissoo, the Cricket team consists of members from various ethnic groups, representing the united battle against discrimination from the American society. Rachel, however, scolds Hans for his gradual negligence towards his family.

The first main conflict is between Rachel and Hans. The aforementioned family relationship - how Hans is valuing economic goals over his loved ones - is consistently an issue for the couple. In addition, Rachel shows her disapproval towards the "ideologically diseased" nation of the US under the Bush Administration (O'Neill 95). Rachel cites the US government's involvement in the Iraq war and claims that she cannot raise Hans in this morally wrong nation. Another conflict in this novel is the struggle between the immigrants and the American society at large. Hans, for instance, cannot even attain a driver's license after passing the written exam because his Dutch heritage involves a difficult last name to spell.

The conflicts rises up to the climax of Netherlands on September 11, 2001. As the two hijacked planes crash into the World Trade Center, Rachel's fear to stay in New York City meets its height. The climax scene of this novel is when Rachel declares that she will leave Hans with their son, Jake. According to Rachel, Jake needs to be nurtured in a safe environment under good parental supervision in a place like London. Hans, troubled yet powerless, is not even willing to prevent her from leaving at this moment.

After the heartbreaking departure of Rachel, Hans enters the falling action of the story. Hans mostly associates himself with Chuck and his friends, attempting to adjust himself to a life without his wife and son. Meanwhile the Cricket Field that Chuck was

planning on constructing at the beginning of the novel gets finished and Hans is amazed by the fact. Hans hears that Rachel is having an affair with a chef named Martin, yet does not do much about it then. Gradually, Hans begins to realize the importance of family life and feels the need to be a proper father for his son, Jake; Hans certainly does not wish to witness his son grow up without a father like he did. Hans returns to London and reunites with his family. While at London, Hans hears the news that Chuck has been murdered and attends his funeral since he was a friend of Hans, after all. After the funeral Hans plans on a family trip to India with Rachel and Jake in order to improve their sense of family without distractions.

In the conclusion of Netherlands, Hans is riding a boat with his family. He is glad that he is finally able to reconnect himself with his family. Watching the beautiful scenery of London from the boat, Hans reflects on his happiness he feels after moving back to London, a sensation he did not have in a long time while he was in New York. Hans expresses his love for Rachel while riding the boat, and sees Jake kindly interacting with another boy who does not speak English. The Dutch family seems to be living in peace and harmony from now on.

## CHARACTER LIST

### HANS VAN DEN BROEK

Hans Van den Broek is rather a skinny man from Holland. He has brown hair and mesmerizing eyes. He is six feet-five tall and has a quiet and passive personality of not telling people how he feels about things. As a result, he also hides his emotions from others. He is a deep thinker and he does not like having too much attention. He sometimes feels isolated, for he is a foreigner in both England and United States. All the

time, he thinks about his life, future and his son. He takes things seriously and does not like to argue with people, but to maintain peace all the time.

## CHUCK RAMKISSOON

Chuck Ramkissoon is an immigrant from Trinidad of Caribbean Sea, who came to America in search for "American Dream". According to Hans, he is older than Hans by almost twenty years. He has a dark skin color and is shorter than Hans. He likes to stand out in front of the public, because he likes receiving attention. Chuck is a very ambitious guy, dreaming about his huge goals that he wants to succeed in. Also, he always wants things to be done in his way. Moreover, he is obsessed with earning money, no matter how immoral his actions can be.

## RACHEL VAN DEN BROEK

Rachel is Hans' wife. She has brown short hair and freckles on her body in general, which Hans call them "lovely". Grown up in a feministic house, where her mother was the head of the house and father just obeying her mother, Rachel became a feministic person as well. Although she is not of an extreme feminist, she stubbornly argues for her judgements, believing that she is right all the time. She kind of looks down on Hans, her husband, who is not an active speaker like her.

## JAKE VAN DEN BROEK

Jake is Hans and Rachel's son. He is around 5 to 6 years old. He has brown hair and is short in height. He likes his family, but gets worried sick whenever his father, Hans, goes missing. He gets along with his step-dad, Martin, although his mom and Martin does

not get along for long. Still, he loves his real dad more over his step dad and wants his parents' love and attention, just like any other kids would want.

## HANS' MOTHER

Hans' mother is a widow, for her husband passed away when Hans was only two years old. She has white hair, and has a crouched back. She is a teacher in a small school back in Holland, and has a quiet personality. Every move of hers seem graceful to Hans. She supports her son as best as she could, but does not directly express her love to Hans. She does not like busy and crowded area, but wants a solemn peace and tranquility.

## ANNE RAMKISSOON

Anne Ramkissoon is Chuck's wife. She looks quite plain and is skinny. She barely speaks English, but when she does, people can kind of understand what she is trying to say. She likes being quiet and obeys Chuck, thinking that that is what all wives should do to their husbands.

## MIKE ABELSKY

Abelsky is a Russian man, whose name sounds like a Jewish person. He is fat and very bulky and muscular. He is stubborn and constantly asks for what he wants. He is a type of guy who "has to" get what he wants, or else he will just go crazy. He does not care about anything, whether it is immoral or not, when it comes down to money. Instead of morality, he chooses money and he does whatever he can do to earn more.

## MEHMET TASPINAR [ANGEL]

Angel is Turk who immigrated to America. He is skinny and always wears angel costume. He looks like he came from somewhere in Arabian countries, which causes an issue on whether he should stay in the apartment, because other apartment residents are worried about how he may be a terrorist. He is always down all the time, not having a courage to do anything. He thinks that nobody can help him to become a better person, and he looks down on himself. Also, he feels lonely all the time and is in eager for a friendship with Hans.

## ELIZA

Eliza is a girlfriend of Chuck. She has blonde curly hair and is a lot younger than Chuck by many years. She likes being organized and loves taking photos. She is bright and smiles everyday, as if nothing can worry her. She always thinks in a positive way, no matter how bad situations can be, which allows her to be not worried about anything. With optimistic attitude of hers, Eliza loves her life.

## MARTIN CASEY

Martin Casey is a chef in England. According to Vinay, he specializes in old English vegetable ingredients. He is in his 40s and is muscular and has black hair. He is kind of handsome, which was the reason why Rachel felt attracted to him in the first place, leaving Hans behind. Martin thinks that he is a cool guy and is able to allure as many girls as he wants. He thinks too high of himself, which makes Rachel to feel disgusted later on, after their break-up.



## Vinay

Vinay is a six-foot tall, food critic from Bangalore. He is fat, because he has to eat all different sorts of food everyday to do his job. He is always unhappy with his life, because he is not satisfied with his current job. He thinks that he should be more of a respected food critic, who only writes about famous chefs and excellent restaurants around the world, and not about small street restaurants that taxi drivers favor in New York. He curses a lot and sometimes act very rude to people around him.

## MAJOR CHARACTER ANALYSIS

### HANS VAN DEN BROEK

Hans Van den Broek is one of the main characters in the novel. His physical traits of being skinny and having a facial expression that does not contain any emotions most of the time indicate something important about him. For example, him being skinny indirectly indicates to the readers that Hans is always in hunger for "love", but never shows or tells about it to others. According to Hans, he was not much "loved" directly, for his father passed away, causing his mother to be in depression and thus, not really taking care of her son due to her own misery. The fact that he never received direct "love" and that his mother did not really take care of him, indicates the reason behind Hans' act of not being able to express his feelings directly to others, but just keeping them to himself. Because he never learned from his mother about how to express love openly and all, perhaps this is why Hans seems as if he is an unemotional person. Also, his mental state of favoring peace over arguing and staying quiet reflects his lonely childhood of being quiet all the time in his house, with his mother going away to work all the time.

## CHUCK RAMKISSOON

Chuck Ramkissoon is also one of the main characters in the novel. His wrinkles from old age reflect the times of his downfalls that he had to go through in order to become who he is today. Like Hans, he had unfavorable memories in his childhood, due to his parents fighting all the time. Chuck also experienced his father's sudden death when he was young and so on. Thus, we can assume that this is perhaps the reason why he is so bright in character. He is trying to hide his unforgettable pasts by trying to live happily as he could right now. He tries to smile and tries to think in positive ways, which may be the result of his bad pasts.

Moreover, Chuck is rather an ambitious guy and loves having attentions. He wants to build this cricket field in the middle of New York city and gain international attentions, making him to be busy and run around asking for support from people all the time. Perhaps, he is doing this to avoid his past from getting into his head; he is scared to face his past. Also, the fact that he loves having attentions shows that he is in hunger for compliments and applauses from others - the result of his lonely childhood. He also is obsessed in earning a lot of money that sometimes his acts to earn money are immoral, and in response, some say that he is mad and corrupt. Yet, after analyzing why he is doing this, it was concluded that Chuck is just trying to not repeat his past of being poor and having financial difficulties. That is why he comes to America in the first place - to succeed in fulfilling his "American Dream".

## IMPORTANT QUOTATIONS

**"You want me to give you a learner permit? OK, but who are you? Are you Johanus...or are you Johannus?...you seem to be in possession of somebody else's green card" (O'Neill 68).**

This quote takes place when Hans goes to a driving test center to get a license, but is denied due to one extra letter difference in his names on his green card and social security card. The quote reflects how the person who is in charge of the admission process is kind of looking down on Hans, for he is a foreigner. Although it may be his job to be strict on the process, his attitude towards Hans is rude throughout the whole process. Thus, this relates to the theme concerning racism and the mistreatment of the foreigners. The man in the counter is American and apparently, he is treating foreigners differently compared to how he treats other fellow Americans. This not only reflects the reality of the racism conflict that is happening continuously right now in the United States, but also brings up the question on whether the United States is truly proud to be a mixed-bowl nation, which is about all international people coming in to live in the United States. Perhaps this is what the author of this novel tried to tell the readers about - the on-going racism issue.

**"I'm only able to chime in when the topic switches to, say, the traffic, which everybody bitterly agrees...I'm precluded by nationality from commenting on any place other than Holland..." (O'Neill 181).**

This quote takes place in London, while Rachel and Hans are meeting some of Rachel's friends in a bar. They are talking about how they used to watch these television shows when they were young, and other English traditions, which literally forces Hans to just sit there and do nothing, because he was not born in England and thus does not know anything about those things. Thus, this made him to feel isolated from everyone else, which relates to the theme of isolation. In the quote, Hans talks about how he can fit in to the group and talk and agree with others when the group talks about general things that do not require any knowledge that has to do with English traditions and all. This is why he mentions about traffic, which everyone can agree upon. He also mentions that he is prevented from fitting in and talking about England, because of his foreign nationality, which

its idea further relates to the theme. This reflects the hardships that every foreigner has to go through when they are in a different country from where they originally came from. There is a certain limit for the foreigners when it comes down to talking about little minor details about different countries in terms of history and traditional aspects. As a foreigner himself, but currently living in United States, the author may have felt this isolation and perhaps this is why he wanted to take a note on this in his novel.

**"Abelsky's job was to stay in the background and act like a big shot too busy to handle the details...I don't need Abelsky...I don't want him involved. What does Abelsky know about the cricket market?...." (O'Neill 135).**

This quote takes place in New York, when Chuck talks to Hans about how he is using Abelsky to get his name so that he can allure wealthy Jewish people to make real estate contracts with him. Chuck claims that he was using Abelsky, because his name sounds like that of Jewish. Yet, Abelsky does not know anything about this, but that Chuck needed him. Through this scene, we can relate this to the theme of deception. Chuck was using others to gain personal benefits. Yet, the quote also talks about how Chuck does not need Abelsky in his other businesses, such as his new cricket arena establishment project. This shows how Chuck uses people and throw them out again as if they are just pure objects that would help him to lead to many great successes. Deceiving people to gain what one wants is what the quote is about and thus, this relates to the very theme of deception.

**"Not for the first time, I was finding it hard to believe this was the woman I'd married..." (O'Neill 96).**

This quote takes place in New York, after Hans had an argument with Rachel about whether they should move back to London or not. Hans opposes of going back, while

Rachel wants to do the opposite. Here, Hans also mentions that the only thing that they talk about is their son and nothing else. This illustrates the broken relationship between the couple which relates to the theme of broken family bond. Rachel claims that Hans always goes off topic when it comes to arguing, when what Hans really meant to do is to avoid conflict and maintain the peace. In Hans' point of view, Rachel is too stubborn and egoistical about herself. With ongoing misconceptions and arguments, the two really do not get along well. A broken bond can later be mended, but the scar that resulted from the breaking process will still remain in the future. Thus, once broken will remain partially broken. So this means that the broken relationship between Hans and Rachel will harm the family and break the family bond, which is one of the themes of the novel.

**"...my grief became disturbed by a guilty sense that very little had changed: with the passage of time Mama was barely less present than she'd been during the many years..." (O'Neill, 85).**

This quote takes place in New York, when Hans is having the moment of nostalgia and some kind of guilt of his life not having changed even after his mother's death. This idea allows the quote to be related to the theme of regret. The quote shows how Hans is constantly regretting on about how he should have done better to his mother while she was alive. Because of the distance difference between Holland and United States or England, the two did not meet each other that often, nor did they talk on the phone regularly, because Hans was busy doing his work. Because past is past, Hans' mother will never come back alive again. Thus, his guilt and regret will remain with him forever, which makes him to suffer and perhaps go through a depression.

# MAJOR THEMES

## nostalgia

Throughout the book Hans feels nostalgic for the past. He constantly provides flashbacks of his past experiences, such as his experiences with cricket, his mother, his family, and most importantly, Chuck. While Hans is living in New York, striving for the American Dream, he realizes that he desires to pursue what he wants since he is living in the "land of opportunity." However, Hans finds out that not everything goes according to plan. The main reason why Hans moves to New York is to provide a proper and safe environment for his family to live in, as well as maintain his role as a respectable equities analyst at a well-known bank in New York. However, as Hans separates with his family due to the fact that he spends less time with them, his life starts to appear meaningless to him until he meets Chuck. Chuck introduces a cricket business that he is planning to run in New York, which causes Hans to stir memories of cricket and his mother. "'We started late because the baseball players have first right to play on this field... It doesn't matter that cricket is the biggest, fastest-growing bat-and-ball game in the world'" (O'Neill 15). This quote indicates how Hans wishes to have a separate life in which he can play proper cricket on a genuine cricket field. He realizes that cricket is not a popular sport in America due to nationalistic sentiments about baseball within the country. This leads Hans to miss the days when he played cricket in Holland as a child, with his mother watching every match he played in.

While Hans is in New York, the unpleasant experiences he has causes him to long to go back to his past, a time when he could have made different decisions. For example, he could have chosen to stay in London, a place where he was satisfied with living in with his family. The move to New York only has a negative impact on his family, and is the main

reason for their separation. "It would feel unnatural, is my feeling, to separate myself from my family in order to spend an afternoon with understated teammates and cups of tea and something essentially nostalgic at stake" (O'Neill 186). This quote indicates how despite Hans' nostalgia for cricket, he is willing to sacrifice his wish to join a cricket team in order to spend more time with his family. This clearly suggests that Hans wants to avoid making the same mistakes, and wants to be available to Jake and Rachel and share important moments with them, rather than constantly feel wistful when thinking about his family.

## IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY

Though Hans' relationship with Chuck seems to be the main focus of the book, it is clear that O'Neill is primarily trying to suggest the importance of family and relationships. Hans grew up without a father and was raised by his mother without much advice. Throughout the novel, Hans constantly expresses his wish to maintain a strong relationship with Jake in order to help Jake become a more confident person who faces few internal conflicts. Apparently Hans did not have a fulfilling childhood due to the absence of a father. He was not able to experience boyhood as other boys with a father would have. "My mother, though watchful, and though a teacher, was not one for offering express guidance, and indeed it may be thanks to her that I naturally associate love with a house fallen into silence. It was possible, too, I further speculated, that a father might have done the trick - that is, an active, observable predecessor in experience, one moreover alert to the duty of handing down, whether by example or word of mouth, certain encouragements and caveats..." (O'Neill 90). This quote indicates how Hans feels a sense of emptiness due to fact that he did not grow up with a father next to him. Hans does not want to pass on his sense of emptiness to Jake, and therefore makes an effort to be available to Jake whenever possible.

Hans realizes that he achieves true happiness when he is with his family. Rather than seeking economic success, his later intent is to strengthen his relationship with his family. "Which makes me remember my mother. I remember how I turned and caught her - how could I have forgotten this until now? - looking not at New York but at me, and smiling. Which is how I come to face my family with the same smile" (O'Neill 256). Before moving to New York, Hans was motivated to achieve the American Dream, which he believed would satisfy him. However, after separating with his family, his life starts to fall apart, leading him to live a meaningless life. After moving back to London and mending his relationship with his family, Hans is able to find out that his family is the only source of happiness for him. Though his mother appeared to be indifferent and unconcerned about his life, he understands that family is of primary importance in everyone's life during his ride on the boat with Rachel and Jake.

## MAJOR SYMBOLS

### CRICKET

It is noticeable that cricket is one of the main symbols in this novel. Cricket appears to symbolize two different ideas, unity and ambition. First of all, cricket is the main driving force that unites Hans with other cricket fans. Especially since cricket is not popular in America, Hans is able to feel a sense of belongingness when he joins a cricket club. Despite the fact that the cricket club is composed of people of different nationalities, the fact that they all belong to the same esoteric group makes them feel united. "Before the start of play, one of our team, Ramesh, drew us into a circle for a prayer. We huddled with arms around one another's shoulders - nominally, three Hindus, three Christians, a Sikh, and four Muslims" (O'Neill 11). This quote suggests that although people in the cricket



club believe in different religions, the sport allows them to ignore all aspects, including race, and unite with their club members to escape from reality.

Cricket also represents ambition. Hans constantly provides flashbacks of his childhood when he played cricket. He is longing to share his interest in cricket with fellow cricket fans. However, since cricket is such an unpopular sport in America, it is difficult for him to continue his dreams as a cricket player. Cricket remains as an ambition for Hans since he is not able to pursue his interests in cricket the way he did as a child. "None of it matters. In this country, we're nowhere. We're a joke. Cricket? How funny" (O'Neill 15). Even though Hans is part of a club that is solely for cricket fans, he is not able to feel the same way about cricket the way he did when he was a boy. Cricket is also used as a tool to form a stronger relationship with Jake, which signifies Hans' ambition to become a good father.

## DRIVER'S LICENSE

Throughout the novel, Hans' driver's license seems to represent discrimination and opportunity. When Hans attempts to receive an American driver's license, it shows how he is discriminated in American society. He is denied before actually taking the driving test simply because his name is spelt differently on his green card, credit card, and social security ID. "As I stood there, thrown by Herald Square's flows of pedestrians and the crazed traffic diagonals and the gray, seemingly bottomless gutter pools, I was seized for the first time by a nauseating sense of America, my gleaming adopted country, under the secret actuation of unjust, indifferent powers" (O'Neill 68). This quote suggests how Hans feels distraught and frustrated by the rigidity of American society.

Driver's license also symbolizes opportunity. Living in New York City without a driver's license limits Hans' chances of expanding his interests and achieving his goals, since transportation is an important factor in his life. Hans is also able to form a more

stable relationship with Chuck due to the fact that Hans needs to pass the driving test. Although Chuck allows Hans to drive his Cadillac merely to avoid suspicion, the fact that Hans needs a driver's license gives Hans the opportunity to drive Chuck's Cadillac. "I was examining my temporary New York license when there was a rap on the window. It was Chuck Ramkissoon" (O'Neill 241). This quote suggests how the goal to receive a driver's license is what brought Chuck and Hans together, apart from cricket. After receiving his temporary driver's license in America, Hans immediately associates this with Chuck. Despite the fact that Hans knew that Chuck was using him as a "white chauffeur," Hans is also grateful that he was able to practice driving by driving for Chuck.

## CHAPTER SUMMARIES

### SECTION #1 Summary [PG3 - PG41]

The novel opens by revealing what happened, before explaining what had already happened. The narrator does not work in chronological order and fills in the missing part of the story the reader should know.

Hans was informed by a reported that Chuck's body has finally been found . It had been laying next to Home Depot where the crabs and car tire likes for over two years. Hans the narrator of the story explains the memories he had with Chuck. They used to play cricket together. Three years after they played together, Chuck and Hans meet together. Hans becomes part of the cricket club. Chuck was the president of the club. They often spent their time on Walker Park but were kicked out when other people wanted to play the more popular sport baseball. It was discrimination due to the diverse nationality of the cricket team.

Hans spent some time with his family, especially with his little boy Jake. However, he had constant arguments with wife Rachel. Living in New York seemed to be the

problem. Money was not a concern to family and what was more important to was spending time with Jake but Hans never seems to know.

## SECTION #2 Summary [PG41 - PG83]

At the beginning of the section, Hans provides the reader about his past. Hans first provides the reader that his heritage. He is from Hague in Holland. Then he provides the reader about his childhood in Holland. As a child, Hans was a part of prestigious football and cricket club known as Houdt Braef Standt. He was athletically talented. As Hans grew, he became more passionate about cricket. Hans considers his cricket memories important, even to his present state he wishes to play cricket in an idealistic condition. As he shares his thought about cricket, Hans was introduced to a cricket club in New York by a taxi-driver named Umar.

A new character is introduced to the story, Vinay, Hans' friend. Vinay is a food columnist, and he often goes to cheap unknown restaurants for his column. Hans is introduced to Chuck, where they meet in a restaurant that serves tradition Trinidad recipe. Chuck and Hans discuss the matters of cricket intensely. Chuck the new business leader of the cricket club offers to fund Hans for his business in cricket.

Hans now feels that he should own a car; however, Hans faces problems obtaining an American driving license. Hans have different names written on his social security ID, credit card, and his permanent residence card. Some abbreviate his name and some spell out his full name. Because of the difference, Hans is prevented from obtaining an American driver's license; therefore Hans must stick to his license he used in England and is only allowed to rent cars. Hans is angry that he was not given the chance to finish his test.

At last Chuck shows up and the business talk about cricket begins. Chuck takes Hans to Brooklyn to show new plans to build a real cricket team. His new plan is to build a

real cricket field in which the team are able to use. Although Hans does not feel so sure about taking his chances in cricket, he does wish to join the cricket team due to his passion for cricket.

### SECTION #3 SUMMARY [PG84 - PG131]

Hans provides a flashback to his past once again. He regrets how he was a child without a dad, and a mother who had suffered from a stroke which was occurred from death of Hans' father. He never grew up being encouraged by her mother because of the stroke she had suffered. Hans background reflects his actions in the present. Instead of being with his family Hans is fired up about his financial situation in America. Hans loses his love for his family and becomes more attached to money.

Rachel later mentions to Hans that she will no longer be coming back to the United States as long as the Bush administrative are present. She blames the political reasons why not to stay in the United States. Even so, Hans shows little interest in Rachel's decision and Rachel moves back to London. In the mean time Hans makes good relationship with the President of the Cricket club, Chuck Ramkissoon. Hans comes to a realization that he needs something to happen in his life. He wants to spend a good time, therefore he considers playing for the Chuck's cricket team.

### SECTION #4 SUMMARY [PG131 - PG176]

Hans is invited to a cricket tournament that Chuck has invited which will be held in Brooklyn. He is chosen as one of the player for the New York Team, run by Chuck. Many Teams are invited and they range from different ethnicity. However before the tournament is taken care of, Hans visits his the Dutch land with Chuck. Although Hans feels confused about the place he is in, it is important to Hans because he feels that he is able to relate

to this place because it is his home country. Even though he may feel confused he feels a strong bond that shows his nationalism as a Dutch.

This time Hans is not able to pass the driving test. He has no problems with the forms. Since Hans does not have a car to practice lends him his car. However, Hans is disappointed when he later finds how Chuck lent his car in order to keep a good image of himself. Chuck had recently used a Jewish person because he needed a Jewish name for his real estate, so he could make contracts with other Jews who own building around. Even though Chuck did something morally wrong, people thought he was a kind gentleman who lent his car to Hans

At last Hans is at the tournament. He is nervous, and it is his turn to bat. As Hans swings the bat the ball goes flying far away. Hans made a successful hit and the crowd goes wild. Hans believe he has found his way of life in America.

## SECTION #5 SUMMARY [PG177 - PG219]

Hans returns to London to meet his boy Jake. Upon arrival he meets his colleagues and his friend. They got to chat with each other but it made Hans feel more uncomfortable as he adapted his life to New York. He did not understand the lifestyles and the traditions his friends and colleagues were talking about, and therefore he felt like being a foreigner.

When Hans finally meets his family Hans is confused by the reaction he gets from Rachel. She shows no sign of aggression. Sooner or later Hans finds out that reason to Rachel's generosity was due to an affair she had with a chef she was working for named Martin. She even had a six month year old baby with Martin. Hans left the house the next morning, and took off to New York. He realized that she had moved on and forgotten about him.

Hans reminisces the ways things used to be when Rachel and Hans met together. Hans misunderstand Rachel because Rachel is not about to show her real feelings. Instead of discussing the matter with Hans, Rachel tells Chuck about his love for Hans and Hans reaction after he found out she had an affair. Chuck assures that Hans will regret leaving and that Hans should return to London to see his family.

## SECTION #6 SUMMARY [PG219 - PG256]

Yet again, Hans moves back to London and makes a new start with his family. Hans, after leaving his wife felt awkward. So did Rachel when she had an affair with the chef she worked for named Martin. To make things straight, the family sets to go on a trip to India. During the stay in India Hans is able to make a relationship with his son and Hans realizes that he should become a father that was always there for his son unlike the childhood he lived without a father. However, Rachel remains quiet throughout the trip and she feels guilty for her actions. Even after the trip to India, to strengthen bonds, Rachel and Hans visits the marriage counselor Juliet Schwarz.

Very soon after, Hans finds out about Chuck's death. Hans believes he is bond tightly to Chuck and wishes to help in the investigation. Due to where Hans is located he is in no place to help the investigation and therefore he is no help. Eventually as Hans gives up his ties he has made in America, he is able to concentrate more on his family life.

Hans is finally becoming a part of the family. He begins to realize the importance of family. He finally is able to understand love and has is happy to be back in London. While riding a boat Hans expresses his love for Rachel.

# CHAPTER STUDY QUESTIONS

## SECTION #1 STUDY QUESTIONS [PG3 - PG41]

**1) What role does nationality and religion play in this section? How does cricket signify unity among Hans and other people from different backgrounds?**

Nationality and religion play important roles in this novel in general since it deals with discrimination, emigration, and the idea of a melting pot. When Hans joins a cricket club, he realizes that the club is composed of people from various backgrounds. Despite the fact that Hans is the only European in his cricket club, he does not feel discriminated against since the sport itself unites everyone. The club also consists of people with different faiths, such as Hinduism, Sikhism, Christianity, and Islam. Cricket acts as a unifying device that helps people understand since they have a common interest.

**2) How does the event involving the Kittitian reflect societal issues such as racism? What is O'Neill trying to suggest when different clubs face conflicts?**

The incident involving the Kittitian clearly is an example of racial tension within New York. The Kittitians are white, while Hans' club mostly consists of South Asians and African-Americans. The fact that Tino, a Kittitian, points a gun at Chuck displays the racial tension among whites and people of different races. O'Neill is suggesting that societal issues, such as racial tension, are what cause the crime rates to increase. Although Tino does not shoot Chuck, he still had the potential to kill Chuck since he possesses a gun.

**3) Does Hans meet his expectations when he moves to New York? In what ways does he fail to achieve the American Dream?**

When Hans moves to New York, he expects to achieve the American Dream, a life full of prosperity and happiness. However, he realizes that he spends less time with his family, and as a result, his family moves back to London. In terms of financial status, Hans is able to earn a considerable amount of money. However, money is not the only factor that brings happiness. Hans' main reason for moving to New York is to provide Jake and Rachel a satisfying life, and allow Jake to grow up in a safe environment. Since his family leaves him, the whole idea of moving to New York seems meaningless. He fails to achieve the American Dream since he loses one of the most important factors that bring happiness and success, family.

## SECTION #2 STUDY QUESTIONS [PG41 - PG83]

**1) What conflict do you think is the main focus of the novel? Self vs. self, self vs. character, or self vs. society? Why?**

The main focus of the novel seems to be the self vs. self conflict since Hans faces internal conflicts. For example, Hans struggles with making the decision on whether if he should help Chuck run the cricket business, whether if he should move back to London, and whether if he should fight for his family. He expresses nostalgia and his wish to fix his past by prioritizing his family. The novel appears to be based on Hans' psychological state while he is New York, and therefore the reader is able to see what kind of internal conflicts he is facing.

**2) How does Hans' inability to get a driver's license in America affect him? What is the author trying to suggest about American society?**

Hans' inability to get a driver's license in America negatively affects him since having a driver's license in America means that he is open to more opportunities. Especially since transportation is important in New York, Hans needs a driver's license in



order to freely travel in and out of the city. The author is again trying to suggest discrimination since Hans was not able to obtain a driver's license merely because the name on his green card, social security ID, and credit card, are all slightly different due to spelling errors. Despite the fact that Hans is fully capable of driving and even passed the written exam, the petty issue dealing with his identification cards prevents him from obtaining a driver's license.

**3) How does Chuck's wish to start a cricket business represent the American Dream? What does the name of the cricket stadium, "Bald Eagle Field," suggest about Chuck's intentions of building the field?**

Cricket is not a popular sport in America since baseball and basketball are more well-known. Despite the fact that cricket is unpopular in America, Chuck still decides to run a cricket business in New York due to his belief in the American Dream. Chuck seems to have the notion that anything is possible in America. Chuck introduces the cricket stadium that he is planning to use to Hans. The name of the stadium, "Bald Eagle Field," suggests a sense of patriotism since the bald eagle is the national bird of America. Chuck's intention is to popularize cricket in America and he believes this is possible since the number of immigrants who are familiar with cricket is increasing.

SECTION #3 STUDY QUESTIONS [PG84 - PG131]

**1) Why does Rachel wish to move back to London with Jake? How does this influence Hans' actions throughout the novel?**

Rachel wishes to move back to London with Jake since she believes that America is an inadequate and dangerous place to live in. She blames the American government, and eventually leaves New York with Jake. The separation from his family influences Hans since his life becomes meaningless since his family is not with him. Hans wants to be a

good husband and father. However, this becomes awfully difficult for him due to the separation. He gradually realizes that the American Dream is highly idealistic.

**2) In what ways does this section criticize America? What is the author trying to suggest or reveal when Hans or any other character criticizes America?**

This section criticizes America since Rachel begins explaining how living in America will only “pollute” Jake’s mind, and therefore wants to raise him in London. She suggests that living in London is safer and a more appropriate place to live in. The author is trying to indicate and reveal that the whole idea of the American Dream is highly idealistic, and that not everyone can achieve the American Dream. As a result, families face problems and are forced to make difficult decisions.

**3) Is it best for Hans to remain in New York to achieve the American Dream, or should he move back to London to reunite with his family?**

It is best for Hans to move back to London to reunite with his family. The main reason Hans moves to New York is to achieve the American Dream that will make his family happy. However, moving to New York only brings Hans misfortune and he eventually separates with his family. The American Dream cannot be achieved by everyone, and Hans realizes that the American Dream is nothing if there is no one who motivates him to work.

## SECTION #4 STUDY QUESTIONS [PG131 - PG176]

**1) What are some stereotypical beliefs mentioned in this section? How does Chuck use these beliefs to his advantage?**

Some stereotypical beliefs mentioned in this section include the stereotype about Jews. Chuck befriends Abelsky, a Russian, and borrows Abelsky’s name to run businesses.

Apparently Jews tend to run successful businesses which causes many people to invest on Jewish businesses. Chuck takes advantage of this stereotype, and names his businesses after Abelsky to appear as though the business is run by a Jew.

**2) What are Chuck's real intentions for having an interest in cricket? Is it for business reasons or is he nostalgic for the past too?**

Chuck appears to see cricket as an opportunities for him to unite with people from different backgrounds who can potentially support his businesses. Chuck also uses cricket as a business tool to achieve the American Dream. He appears to be only concerned about earning money. For example, the conversations Chuck shares with Hans about cricket only deals with his cricket business, rather than his passion for playing cricket.

**3) How does Hans define Chuck? Is Chuck a stranger who happens to be in the same cricket club as Hans, or is he a friend?**

Hans seems to define Chuck as a a friend. Despite the fact that Chuck uses Hans for his own benefit and to avoid suspicion, Hans still recognizes Chuck as a friend. Hans was able to obtain a driver's license with help from Chuck, who allowed Hans to drive his Cadillac. Both Chuck and Hans were use each other for their own benefit, and experiences growth. Hans also attends Chuck's funeral and attempts to help investigate Chuck's death by providing potential evidence to Marinello.

SECTION #5 STUDY QUESTIONS [PG177 - PG219]

**1) How does Hans define himself? Does he identify himself as Dutch, English, or American? Does he accept the idea that he is Americanized?**

Hans appears to identify himself as English, but is proud of his Dutch heritage. The flashbacks indicate how Hans longs to go back to the times when he played cricket in

Holland, yet he prefers to live in London. Hans seems to despise the idea that he is Americanized since people in London start treating him as though he is an immigrant. Hans wishes to be treated as a Londoner and wants to avoid being identified as an American due to the unpleasant experiences he had in New York.

**2) Why does Hans become defensive when Matt criticizes America? What are Hans' feelings towards America?**

Despite the fact that Hans does not have strong positive feelings towards America, he becomes defensive when Matt criticizes America. This seems to be because Hans dislikes the fact that Matt is making assumptions and forming a stereotypical perspective. For example, Matt talks about how September 11th was a trivial event that did not have much impact. As a result, Hans, who was actually in New York at the time of the event, defends America. Matt did not even have a first-hand experience of the event, yet made assumptions.

**3) Do you think moving back to London is an appropriate decision for Hans to make? Will moving back to London improve his situation?**

Moving back to London is an appropriate decision for Hans to make since he appears to have been more satisfied with his life when he was living in London. He moves to New York mainly to support his family. However, since Rachel and Jake are now in London, Hans feels the need to be available to his family by moving back to London. Hans eventually does not achieve the American Dream he was seeking for, and becomes rather unmotivated while in New York. In order to regain his happiness it is best for Hans to move back to London.

## SECTION #6 STUDY QUESTIONS [PG219 - PG256]

**1) How does the trip to India mend the relationship between Hans and his family? What is the author suggesting when Hans reunites with his family?**

The trip to India definitely mends the relationship between Hans and Jake since Hans is able to improve his role as a father and be available to Jake. Hans is also able to gradually approach Rachel, who is distraught by the fact that Martin, her lover, is having an affair with someone else. The author is suggesting the importance of family. Hans experiences true happiness when he is with his family, and realizes that his source of satisfaction is his family.

**2) Is it better for Hans to forget about Chuck, or should he always remember Chuck as a friend? How does Chuck's death affect Hans?**

It is better for Hans to forget about Chuck since remembering Chuck will only hinder Hans from strengthening his relationship with his family. Maintaining his "friendship" with Chuck will only complicate Hans' relationship with his family and will force him to make sacrifices. Hans should focus on improving his role as a father and husband. Chuck's death affects Hans since Hans attempts to help Marinello by providing potential evidence. Hans also attends Chuck's funeral. Hans is preoccupied with investigating Chuck's death, but Hans eventually realizes that he should forget about Chuck and be more concerned about his family.

**3) The story is non-linear and provides a lot of flashbacks of Hans' past. How does the non-chronological manner of the novel help deliver certain messages, such as the importance of family?**

The non-chronological manner of the novel helps deliver certain messages since it helps express the confused and complicated thoughts Hans has. The non-linear plot also helps emphasize certain themes. For example, the flashbacks of Hans' childhood helps readers understand why Hans wishes to play cricket again, or why he feels the need to be always available to Jake. The non-chronological nature of the novel also makes the novel more interesting since it allows readers to question and predict what will happen next.

## NOVEL UNIT TEST

### TRUE / FALSE

1. Hans initially disapproves the American sport baseball but slowly adjusts and accepts it.
2. In New York City, Hans cannot get a driver's license card even after he passed the written exam.
3. Rachel is a faithful wife who patiently waits for Hans' return in London with their son.
4. The multiethnic cricket team had full rights to use the stadium when they were present.
5. Hans is the only White player in the cricket team under the leader Chuck

### SENTENCE COMPLETION

6. Hans did not have \_\_\_\_\_ when he was growing up, which affected his childhood memories.
7. At the beginning of the novel, a Kittitian threatens Chuck with a \_\_\_\_\_.
8. During a cricket match, Hans suddenly realizes that he had hit a ball like an \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Chuck is revealed to be involved in an illegal \_\_\_\_\_ business.
10. Rachel cheats on Hans by getting into an affair with a man who works as a \_\_\_\_\_.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

11. The narrator of his novel is:

- a. 3rd person
- b. Nick
- c. Hans
- d. Chuck

12. Hans has a wife named:

- a. Veronica
- b. Jennifer
- c. Rachel
- d. Boram

13. Despite his many settlements in various places, Hans is from

- a. Germany
- b. Denmark
- c. Netherlands
- d. Poland

14. Hans moves from London to \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Netherlands
- b. New York
- c. Nigeria
- d. Nicaragua

15. After he settles into the new society, Hans meets new friends like Chuck. Who is he?

- a. A taxi driver
- b. A Trinidadian entrepreneur

- c. A McDonald's worker
- d. A professional cricket player

16. Chuck has a dream of establishing a sports stadium in NYC just for

- a. Football
- b. Cricket
- c. Soccer
- d. Baseball

17. The name of the field that Chuck is planning on is

- a. Turtleneck Field
- b. Heinz Field
- c. Ramkissoon Field
- d. Bald Eagle Field

18. Hans has the job of \_\_\_\_\_ in NYC.

- a. A Stockbroker
- b. A Taxi driver
- c. A McDonald's worker
- d. A professional cricket player

19. Hans has \_\_\_\_ son(s).

- a. 0
- b. 1
- c. 2
- d. 3

20. the general attitude from the American society towards Hans can be primarily described by:



- a. Acceptance
- b. Congenial
- c. Hospitable
- d. Discrimination

21. Which of the following American events is mentioned in the novel?

- a. Moscow Olympic Boycott
- b. September 11
- c. The Civil War
- d. Election of Barack Obama

22. Rachel and Hans have a son named

- a. John
- b. Jason
- c. Jake
- d. Jaeook

23. Hans finds out that \_\_\_\_\_ has been murdered

- a. Chuck
- b. Rachel
- c. Jake
- d. Hans' mother

24. What American public figure is criticized directly in the novel?

- a. Tiger Woods
- b. Monica Lewinsky
- c. Britney Spears
- d. Andrew Johnson

25. After a while Hans realizes that Chuck...
- a. was making Hans drive the car for selfish reasons
  - b. was going to be bankrupted
  - c. was adapting a Dutch identity
  - d. was giving up on the Cricket field

### SHORT ANSWERS [ANSWER IN TWO OR THREE SENTENCES]

26. What is significant about Chuck's cricket team in terms of its members?
27. What does the sport cricket symbolize in this novel?
28. Name one incident when Hans felt betrayed by Chuck. Explain.
29. What is the reason why Hans cannot get a driver's license?
30. Why is the name of the cricket field significant to the story?
31. What is the main factor that drives Hans to move back to London?
32. "Lodged in the fence, I saw, were the corpses of other neighborhood frogs that had died trying to migrate into the garden with the water" (156). Identify the speaker and briefly analyze this quote including its symbolism.
33. What effect does the collapse of the World Trade Center have on Hans' family relationship?
34. Vinay, Hans' friend, is a food columnist who is discriminated in his job, how so?
35. How did Hans grow up when he was young in terms of his family relationship?

### ESSAYS [CHOOSE TWO OF THE FOLLOWING AND ANSWER THEM USING AT LEAST ONE EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT]

36. In Netherlands, how is America portrayed as a "melting pot" of people from a multitude of backgrounds?

37. The Great Gatsby explores the theme of reaching the American Dream. Did Hans achieve the american dream?
38. Hans slowly loses grip of his family relations as he moves to New York, yet Hans is initially ignorant of this problem. How does his attitude towards family life change over the course of the novel?
39. As a person with Dutch heritage who moved from London to New York, Hans faces a form of national identity crisis. How does Hans perceive his own background in this novel?
40. Hans quotes, "... I did my best to look away from New York - where, after all, I'd been unhappy for the first time in my life" (O'Neill 4). Assess the validity of this statement.

## NOVEL UNIT TEST ANSWERS

### TRUE / FALSE

1. F
2. T
3. F
4. F
5. T

### SENTENCE COMPLETION

6. a father
7. gun
8. American
9. gambling
10. chef

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

- 11. C
- 12. C
- 13. C
- 14. B
- 15. B
- 16. B
- 17. D
- 18. A
- 19. B
- 20. D
- 21. B
- 22. C
- 23. A
- 24. B
- 25. A

## SHORT ANSWERS

26. Chuck's cricket team includes many different people from various backgrounds. "My own teammates variously originated from Trinidad, Guyana, Jamaica, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka...I was the only white man I saw on the cricket fields of New York" (O'Neill 10).
27. Cricket is a very famous ball sport in many countries around the world. However, cricket is not well recognized in the United States. The conflict between cricket and baseball symbolizes the cultural differences between the US citizens and the

immigrants; the American society refuses to accept the foreign sport and discriminates people who play it.

28. Hans originally thought that Chuck was kind enough to let Hans drive in order to practice for his driving test. Yet it turns out that Chuck wanted a white person in the driver's seat to avoid suspicion. "I understood, now, the point of my driving lessons... to have a respectable looking white man chauffeuring him with he ran around collecting bets all over Brooklyn. Apparently it had not bothered him that he was putting me at risk of arrest and imprisonment" (171).

29. Even after passing the written exam, Hans cannot easily obtain a driver's license. His last name, which is very foreign to Americans, "Johanus" is slightly misspelled in the documentation process which disables Hans from getting his license.

30. The Bald Eagle is the emblem of America. And Chuck names the cricket field "Bald Eagle Field". Americans do not approve the foreign sport readily yet Chuck labeled his cricket playing ground as "Bald Eagle Field". Chuck predicts that many future immigrants will populate the city of New York and therefore making Cricket more popular than it is at the moment.

31. The main factor that drives Hans to move back to London is in his troubled family relations. He first wants to improve his relationship with Rachel, his wife. Additionally, Hans wants to provide a proper parental supervision for Jake, since Hans himself did not have a father growing up.

32. Hans is the speaker of this metaphorical quote. The quote reflects the competition in America by the influx of foreign immigrants, indicated by the frogs. Frogs fight for resources and a suitable condition to live in the garden with water, similar to the immigrants who compete for jobs and better living conditions.

33. The September 11 incident shows to Rachel that New York is not a safe environment to raise Jake. She also feels disapproval towards the United States' government and their political domination in the international community. Rachel uses these justifications to take Jake with her to London as Hans stayed in New York.
34. Vinay shares the common destiny of many other immigrants - he is discriminated in the American society. As a food columnist, Vinay must visit restaurants around the city and write critiques. Yet Vinay can only manage to review cheap, uninteresting restaurants in New York due to his low position and limited economic capacity.
35. Hans had an unfortunate childhood because of numerous factors. Firstly his mother did not provide enough guidances nor love when Hans was young. Also Hans grew up without a father, which he believes affected his character and personality negatively. Hans certainly does not want the same fate to reoccur in Jake's life.

## ESSAYS [DIFFERENT ANSWERS MAY BE ACCEPTED WITH SUPPORTING EVIDENCE]

36. America is portrayed as a melting pot in this novel and the prominent example will be the cricket team that Chuck is involved in. "Before the start of play, one of our team, Ramesh, drew us into a circle for a prayer. We huddled with arms around one another's shoulders - nominally, three Hindus, three Christians, a Sikh, and four Muslims" (11). Despite their various religious backgrounds, such as Hinduism, Christianity, Sikhism, and Islam, they are all spiritually united as a team. Before the cricket game against the Kittitians begins, Ramesh gathers his team with many distinct native beliefs and delivers a motivational prayer. Even religions who were strong adversities of each other like Christians and Muslims are united under the same cause. Instead of remaining as separate

entities in an alien land, the immigrants in the American society join together even in religious aspects.

37. In Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, Jay Gatsby achieves the American dream financially but he does not necessarily become more happy. A similar theme happens in *Netherlands*. "I ran a team of Bangladeshi cement guys. I had Irish painters - well, the main guy was Irish, a terrific guy, his men were Guatemalans - I had Russian plasterers, I had Italian roofers, I had Grenadan carpenters. All from Brooklyn. Everybody was happy" (133). Like the quote demonstrates, people from all over the world migrate to the US in hopes of economic benefits. Hans, like many other immigrants, end up being relatively successful in economic terms. However he loses his family because Rachel and Jake move back to London without him. Like Jay Gatsby, Hans may possess more money than before but happiness does not grow proportionally with the financial gain, thus revealing the dark shadow of the American Dream.

38. After a while, Hans realizes that he has been a careless husband and a father so he dedicates himself to his family more. Hans becomes so dedicated to his family life that he even begins to forget about cricket. Originally, Hans loved the sport cricket so much in New York City that he voluntarily did extra work for the team. After moving to London, however, Hans starts to pay more attention to his family and makes some sacrifices, one of them including playing cricket. His increasing sense of dedication can be reflected in the following quote, "It would feel unnatural, is my feeling, to separate myself from my family in order to spend an afternoon with understated teammates and cups of tea and something essentially nostalgic at stake" (186). Hans takes a much more active role as a father and a husband as the story progresses.

39. Despite the fact that he dislikes identifying himself as a New Yorker, Hans is adapting to American lifestyle. One day Chuck takes Hans into a Dutch farmland area in

attempt to remind Hans of his Dutch heritage. "But then what?... I had no idea what to feel or what to think, no idea, in short, of what I might do to discharge the obligation of remembrance that fixed itself to one in this anomalous place, which offered so little shade from the incomprehensible rays of the past" (154). Hans unexpectedly feels confused and does not know how to perceive this interaction between his past and present. He cannot even easily feel reminiscent in this nostalgic place. This incident indicates how Hans is slowly losing his sense of national heritage as a Dutch in the United States of America.

40. From start to finish, Hans will still agree that New York was certainly not the best place he has been to in his life. Hans' favorite sport, cricket is discriminated in the American society and nobody gives respect for cricket. In addition, Hans can't even get a driver's license after passing the exam because of his name as a foreigner. Vinay, a friend of Hans, is a food columnist who is also discriminated in the society; Vinay can visit only cheap, dull restaurants in New York city all the time. Hans also loses his family because he cannot commit himself as much into his family than he used to be able to. In addition, Chuck, a friend Hans trusted in, exploits Hans and puts him on potential danger by making him drive the car around Brooklyn while gathering bet money. Unlike the senior vice president from London at the very beginning of the novel who thinks "New York's a very hard place to leave...", Hans will eventually find New York easy to leave (3).